

THE BELL RINGER

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Former Exchange Student From Germany Christoph Schmidt Reflects on His Year at MBA

By Christoph Schmidt

As some of you might remember, I was an MBA student in 2000/01. I got to Nashville with "ASSIST", an organization, which, for several years, brings an exchange student to MBA for an entire academic year. Sometimes it was hard for me, and I don't think I ever slept more than two hours the night before theme day (you, I could have marked earlier), but that year was still the single best thing I have ever done. Being "The German" opened a lot of doors and making friends was really easy. However, I was treated just like any other student. I got the same grades and the same demerits. I am grateful for that, because otherwise I would not have been a fully integrated member of the student body, and that's the one thing I wanted to be. I wanted to get to know the US and its people, and I also tried to tell the other students more about Germany and Europe. Joining the international club and talking at the assembly, but first of all, 6th period lunch were opportunities to do just that. Many students were extremely interested and had a lot of questions, which was great. Still, I was sometimes shocked about the lack of knowledge that, even at a school like MBA, exists when it comes to the world outside the US. Although I, unlike a friend at another

school, haven't been asked whether there is electricity in Germany (No, Germans build Porsche, Mercedes and BMWs by candlelight!), a lot of things I would have considered basic knowledge were unknown. Don't get me wrong; I know that all of you are considerably smart. It's just that one should not forget that there's something beyond Florida or California. Hey, there are 560 million people living in the European Union.



Christoph Schmidt, who was here from 2000-2001

Anyway, what I wanted to say is that I think

the exchange programs MBA has are very interesting for MBA's students and the boys coming from all over the world alike.

In a world that is getting smaller, you just have to make international experiences.

So, what did I pull out of that year away from home? Besides getting hooked up on Football and learning some half way decent English, I found MBA is

My school has no dress code, no honor code, no demerits, only little sports, larger (and co-ed) classes, and you normally do not identify with the school you attend. So what is better? I don't know. My teachers (and Coach Sanders) really got me working on a very high level. I loved going to the Big Red's Football Games, and winning the state title with the track team was overwhelming. Most impressive of all was that great community.

When you talk about school in Germany, you are talking about the academic institution. Sports, music, or summer trips are organized in clubs, church groups, etc. This way you get to know a lot of people from other schools and with completely different backgrounds, which opens up a whole new array of opportunities. Besides a few boarding schools, there is no private school system comparable to the US. Even though Germany is a western country and many habits, foods and even the music are pretty similar to the US, living in Europe is definitely different from living in America. Not worse. Not better. Just different. You might just want to come over for a week, a month or longer to make your own experiences.

For me, being abroad was the best thing that could have happened.

Scholar, Athlete - What's Missing?

By Hunter Cummings

For those of you who are not scholars, the "Gentleman" seems to be missing from our three-part creed that titles this article, which asks whether or not the gentleman is missing from our school. In the last Bell Ringer, Hunter Brunstetter suggested that "Perhaps a little more emphasis on the 'gentleman' aspect of our creed is in order." We seem to be doing a fine job winning state championships and scoring above average in academic areas, but are we conveying a positive image to the Nashville community with our behavior and the reputation we are building? More importantly are we treating each other with the respect and courtesy that a gentleman extends to everyone?

Now I know what you're thinking. Or at least I think I do. I also have heard

lectures on being a gentleman, a scholar, and an athlete, and frankly the lectures get old. Every year the graduation sermons, first-day lectures, and assembly speakers almost always talk about our creed. But try for a minute to think about what being a gentleman really is and what it really means to your world. I used to think that being a gentleman meant opening doors for ladies and avoiding behavior described by the phrase, "conduct unbecoming of a gentleman." Sadly, our reputation is being ruined when we appear in the paper for having sex with girls while drunk or breaking the law during our breaks.

In addition to proving our stereotypes in Nashville, we are failing to be gentlemen on campus too. Too many students, teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, and custodians have had days as a result of our failure to be gentlemen.

Making fun of someone else at their expense or failing to clean up our trash at lunch makes it difficult for someone else. When we deface school property, we only encourage the image of the MBA student as being a snobby, spoiled rich kid.

The concept of being a gentleman is not as intangible and idealistic as people think. It's quite simple. Being a gentleman revolves around common courtesy. As a final word in his book on *How to be a Gentleman*, John Bridges writes: "A gentleman never makes himself the center of attention. His goal is to make life easier, not just for himself but for his friends, his acquaintances, and the world at large." Many of us won't always remember who won what in high school. We will remember how we were treated, though.

Nashville will continue to think of us as athletes and scholars, and the media

will always exaggerate the times when students make mistakes due to poor choices. However, individual Nashvillians can note whether we are truly gentlemen or not. So instead of putting ourselves on the back after Soap Kitchen, and gloating over our latest win or test score, we should consider how we treat each other and every person we come into contact with. Only then will people think of MBA as a school of gentlemen. Let's return the gentleman to our motto and the gentleman to our school.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

News.....	2
Point/Counterpoint.....	3
Sports.....	4
Entertainment.....	5-7
Class News.....	8

"Bedroom Privacy"

By Chris Smith - Options Editor

The right to privacy is sort of an elusive right. Nowhere in the constitution is a general right to privacy explicitly stated. A Supreme Court ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut* established a basic right to privacy that was simply explained as "bedroom privacy." But this bedroom privacy seems to extend only to heterosexuals. Four states—Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas—have laws prohibiting sexual intercourse of any kind between members of the same sex. An upcoming Supreme Court case will challenge the constitutionality of these sodomy laws. The state in question in the case is, not surprisingly, Bush's home state of Texas.

The 1986 Supreme Court case *Bowers v. Hardwick* upheld, in a 5-4 ruling, a lower court ruling that state sodomy laws were constitutional. The Texas law makes "homosexual conduct" such as "deviate sexual intercourse" a crime with a maximum penalty of \$500. In the case in question, *Lawrence v. Texas*, police were investigating a report of an armed man "going crazy" when they discovered John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner engaging in the euphemistically titled "deviate sexual intercourse" outlawed by the state's sodomy law. The only armed men, as it turned out, were the policemen arresting the two men for having sex in the privacy of their own bedroom. The two men were later fined \$500.

Because the Supreme Court has decided to hear this case, the court will probably overturn its decision in *Bowers*. Since that 1986 decision, the number of state sodomy laws has decreased from 28 to 13, indicating a more lenient tolerance of "homosexual conduct." An overturning of *Bowers* is not a certainty, however, as only four of the court's nine justices need to agree to hear a case, and two of the dissenting justices in *Bowers* are still on the bench.

The Texas prosecutors in *Lawrence* argue that the state has a right to uphold public morality. I don't think I'm being overly-perceptive, however, when I notice that the concept of public morality has nothing to do with policing the bedrooms of private citizens.

The Texas prosecutors are also arguing that a homosexual's right to engage in "deviate sexual intercourse" (read: bedroom privacy) could not have "conceivably achieved the status of a fundamental right in the brief period of 16 years." This prosecutor's statement, reeking of the anticipated intolerance and the stagnation of progress associated with an anti-gay rights case, goes so far as to suggest that an accepted period of time must lapse before a right is a fundamental one.

The reversal in *Brown v. Board of Education* of the "separate but equal" doctrine, for example, acknowledged that the right to equal protection of the laws had been impinged, not that sufficient time had lapsed since the court's original ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. That the court took sixty years to overturn *Plessy* proves only that integration was viciously opposed, not that the right to equal facilities underwent some sort of gestation.

Beyond all the legalities of privacy and the fourteenth amendment's equal protection clause is an alarmingly clear fact: law enforcement agents arrested two consenting adults for having sex in their own bed. In all legal matters there is a tendency to exhaust the complexities of the case. But I am disappointed that "public morality" and the shockingly insane suggestion that fundamental rights are dependent on time are employed as a means of obfuscation. If the Supreme Court upholds the Texas court's prosecution of John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, the government will have established its power to arrest you in your bedroom.

The Story on Trent Lott

By Jack Bryant - Managing Editor

Trent Lott and the Republican Party have found themselves in a questionable situation. For those of you who don't know, recently Trent Lott—a very conservative Senator from Mississippi and Senate Majority Leader—when celebrating Senator Strom Thurmond's (R-SC) birthday, made some inappropriate comments regarding Strom's career.

In 1948 Strom ran for the presidency, he carried four states and received thirty-nine electoral votes as a States Rights Democratic candidate, aka the Dixiecrats. Under the mask of States Rights was a desire to block integration. For the most part, Dixiecrats were southern racists that used States Rights as an excuse for keeping blacks out of white schools. Keep in mind that this movement in the 40's was the third largest independent vote in US history.

Back to 2002—Strom Thurmond is turning 108. Recollecting that Mississippi was one of the four states that cast its electoral votes for Senator Thurmond in 1948, Senator Lott remarked, "We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all the problems over all these years, either!" Obviously this quote was destined to be surrounded with controversy. A week after Lott's condemnable words were uttered, civil rights activists were calling for him to resign. NAACP president Kweisi Mfame commented, "I think Trent is sincere in his desire to get this behind him...it's

too little, too late. He should step aside." Other leaders like Jesse Jackson and the Reverend Al Sharpton have made similar statements.

Should Lott resign? Well, prominent Republicans think what Trent said was deplorable, and he has already wiped his slate clean. However, the Democratic Party is putting serious pressure on Lott to resign, because they are not entirely satisfied with his apologies. The Democrats have more of a motive than is apparent on the surface. If Lott should resign, the GOP would lose much of the momentum it gained in the November elections. Also, if Lott should resign from Majority Leader, the Democrats might not step there. They could begin to call for his resignation from Senate. Those two happenings are not far off in the future and are likely. If that should happen, and I am sure all Congressmen like myself know this, the Mississippi Governor would then have the task of choosing the new Senator. Well, the Mississippi Governor is a Democrat and would most likely appoint a democratic Senator. If that happened the GOP would no longer have the majority in the Senate.

Who knows what is going to happen. I think what Senator Lott said is terrible and offends all Republicans. However, I believe that he was simply trying to make an old, dying man happy. Strom is a vegetable. His staff runs his office, and Lott was probably trying to get a rose out of the old goat.

Service Club Update

By Robert Foster - Service Club Co-President

The service club has once again had a great month. The start of December produced a fabulous soup kitchen. Mr. Chenery provided the menu: a delectable treat of meatloaf, beans, potatoes, and cookies. The crates raved and cried for more meat each time they entered the line. Matt Conrad, Harry Kuntz, and Trip Tate got down and dirty mixing the meatloaf and produced some of the finest cuisine ever to hit soup kitchen. Mr. Herring provided valuable leadership for cleanup as over 185 people were served.

Preston Taylor has continued to be successful and provides valuable help

to young children in need of funding for school. Cannon Kinsard continues to provide valuable support and leadership for the project. Finally, MBA's second annual toy drive has been a huge success. Two-thirds of the way through the collection there were more than a hundred and thirty toys.



Harry Kuntz, Trip Tate, and Matt Conrad dedicating their early morning Saturdays each month to Soup Kitchen, as we all should.

There has been an overwhelmingly large amount of support. The toy drive will surely bring a happy Christmas to many children who would not normally have any Christmas at all. The student body should be proud of its giving spirit. With such a successful fall semester, MBA should only naturally expect a more fruitful Spring Semester.

Volunteer of the Month Hunter Cummings



"If it ain't squeakin', it ain't clean." - Sergeant Shanley's Motto (Hunter requested this quotation be placed under his picture.)

Welfare

Matthew Brinton: Pro

One of the most popular topics for the political parties to squabble about in Congress today is that most reviled and disparaged of all topics: the system of aid to the indigent, known popularly as welfare. Beloved of minorities and the poor (naturally), opposed by conservatives and much of the elite class, welfare is another one of those "lightning rod" topics that just about everyone who's interested in government has an opinion about.

Welfare comes in many shapes and sizes. In fact, welfare might be defined as aid to those who need it. Minimum wages, Medicare, block grants, food stamps, and Social Security are all forms of welfare. Most of these are integral components of democracy, despite what the conservatives might say. Social Security, for example, isn't going anywhere as long as the aged vote; the same goes for a minimum wage as long as the unions and people in low-paying jobs vote; and so on and so forth. Now, most people don't have problems with these types of welfare—it would be difficult to find someone who opposes a minimum wage—but there are many who do oppose temporary aid to needy families and the like.

Why do these people, who are known politely as conservatives and less

formally as something else, oppose aid to the poor? Most of them consider it a permanent "dole" to people who won't work. This is a misconception of the entire system. There is a time limit on the amount of welfare a person can receive—specifically, five years, with a work requirement after two of these. Convicted felons are barred from receiving welfare, as are people under eighteen without a diploma or not attending school. In addition, some will protest that the welfare system is undemocratic and contributes to redistribution of wealth in a quasi-socialist sort of scheme. What, then, is democratic? Allowing the elderly to reside far below the poverty line? Letting the poor die because of lack of medicines? Not exactly.

There is one point being made by the conservatives, despite all of the welfare fictions spread by them. Welfare does take up a sizeable portion of the national budget. This is true—we could have lower taxes if there were no such programs, but the results would be very bad for our country as a whole, so it's a necessary sacrifice that everyone must make. In short, it's the price of living in a democracy. The alternative is, of course, wholesale poverty, with people starving in the streets and so on, which would lead to crime epidemics, despair and even class warfare.

Andrew Keyser: Against

With the national debt now solidly in the trillions range and a budget deficit growing due to the necessary war on terrorism, all politicians with any fiscal wisdom are looking for somewhere to scale back government spending. Excuse me while I state the obvious: cut welfare.

Every year, the government pays out millions of dollars to thousands of people who have no job and do nothing to benefit society. Now, while there are a few people who are on welfare because they just got fired or for some other legitimate reason, I hold that the vast majority of welfare cases do not fall into this category. Rather, they are the ones who leech off the portions of society that actually work for their money, while they sit around and live off their free paycheck.

Think about it, it's a pretty sweet deal. I mean, you don't have to do anything for your money, you get assistance to find a job that you can then lose in short order, your rent, utilities, and food are all covered

by welfare, and you can blame it on anything from an economic downturn to discrimination.

I will admit that several advances have been made in welfare reform. There is now a "time limit" on how long one can stay on welfare, and several other limits as to who can pull from the system and for how long. But the problem remains that there are still too many loopholes. People can too easily find exceptions to these rules (which are too many to be listed here) and continue to sit around and be lazy, living off our taxes.

Here's my question: Why can't these people get a job? Companies and the government give away hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for people to go to college, and I just looked through the classifieds yesterday, finding literally hundreds of available jobs, many of which are willing to train their employees. In the final analysis, it is obvious that the problem is not limits on opportunities, but indolence. Why should our government continue to promote this strain on the country?

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Basketball Team Has High Expectations

By Jeffrey Hollis

The MBA basketball team enters the 2002-2003 season with high expectations. In spite of losing four seniors, MBA returns many key players who garnered significant minutes last year. Seniors Jeffrey Hollis and Paul Robinson will look to lead this team of mostly underclassmen. However, don't let the age of the players fool you. Junior Brad French, a member of the State All-Tournament Team, played a significant role on the team as a State Semi-finalist last year. The team will also rely on contributions from sophomores Jay Pilkerson, a tremendous athlete, Tee Patterson, a dead-eye shooter, C.J. "Diet" Hunt, a rebound specialist, and Hughes Timon, a point-man with loads of potential. Also, the Big Red will utilize stand-out freshman Deon Gaines at point guard. Despite the team's age, both the coaches and the players themselves are confident in the personnel. "I think one of our strengths this year is our personnel. We may not have as many athletes as in past years, but, maybe for the first time, we have true basketball players," said head coach Jerry Meyer.

The Big Red has many strengths this year on which to rely. All the players can shoot, pass, and run with the ball. When you have a team like that, you can score a lot of points and cause a lot of problems for the other team on the defensive end. Offensively, the team will look to push the ball at every opportunity, and run a wide

open half-court offense. Defensively, the team will attempt to establish a strong half-court defense, the staple of MBA basketball. However, unlike last year, the team will be able to turn to a full court, run-and-jump pressure to up the intensity. "This year, the team has players who are able to play full-court defense, which should help disrupt the other team's offense and create offense for the Big Red," asserts Brad French. The ability to extend the defense stems from the team's often down-played athleticism. Brad French started on this year's State Champion football team, while Jay Pilkerson, in addition to football, is an up-and-coming track star. The biggest weakness to this year's team is size. The tallest player is 6'3", which may cause rebounding and match-up problems in the post. However, with intensity and purpose, the players are confident they can conquer these shortcomings.

This year's MBA basketball team has set high goals for itself. They look to win the Region Title that Father Ryan has held for the past two years. They also look to win back the State Title, which MBA held the two previous years before last. "The biggest factor will be for the team to come out and compete every night. A team cannot win every game, but if the Big Red puts itself in the position to win every time it takes the court, if we do that, it will do just fine this season."

A Titan Turnaround

By Davey Douglas

The Titans, after having a record of 2-4 at the time of my last article, have rebounded to an 8-5 record after beating the Colts for a second time on Dec. 8. After a thrashing by the Oakland Raiders, the Titans came back with a vengeance, beating the Bengals, Colts, Texans, Giants, and the Colts again, with a lone loss to the Ravens. The Titan's defense finally seems to be working together as a unit, although they committed three pass interference penalties in the second half alone against the Giants. An injured Steve McNair and the offense were there to bail them out though, as Steve's 300 yards passing led to a thrilling overtime victory. The Titans' defense still misses Jevon Kearse at defensive end, but Kevin Carter and several others have stepped up their level of play to partially make up for his absence. The return of Randall Godfrey has been a big plus too, as he has had 12 or 13 tackles in his first two games back.

The offense has been exciting to watch this year, as Steve McNair and the receivers have led the charge on the winning streak. The return of Robert Hoke has been fantastic, as Eddie still can't run the ball more than 3 yards a carry. Eddie has looked out against the media, saying he was sick of being blamed for the Titans' losses, and how his playing would silence the critics. So much for that idea, as Eddie pulled his usual 68-yard game effort in his first game after lashing out against the press. The receiving corps has been

great, with Derrick Mason leading the young group forward. Steve McNair has also been phenomenal, as he continues to play week after week with seemingly endless injuries.

Special teams has also been ok, with Joe Maddy kicking almost everything through the uprights, except for a poor kick attempt against the Giants, where he actually kicked a field goal into Benji Olson's butt. He has also stepped in and made some tackles on kickoff returns. The return game is average, with John Simon and Eddie Berlin back receiving kickoffs, and Derrick Mason back returning punts. It was smart of Jeff Fisher, who now sports a rapidly greying beard, to put Simon on kickoff return, so the Titans can get the spectacular rookie onto the field. He actually hauled in a long pass to score the game's first points against the Colts a week ago.

Injuries haven't been too rough on the Titans, except for the loss of Jevon. In a game against the Giants, Kevin Dyson pulled a hamstring making a 40-yard catch and is out indefinitely. Samari Rolle also received one of his multiple injuries against the Giants that kept him out of the second half.

The Titans beat, or maybe already hosted by the time this article is printed, a Monday night game against the defending Super Bowl champs, the New England Patriots. They have four games remaining on their schedule and need to win all four to have a sure-fire spot in the playoffs. At the rate the Titans have turned around, it looks like we will see them in January.

FYI, MBA Hockey Fans

By Max Douglas

Hockey isn't a sport associated with a warm climate, yet we find ourselves in the last few years overwhelmed with it. What are these Canadian accented announcers representing the Predators talking about? To make the game more enjoyable for MBA fans, I will attempt to explain some basic rules or phrases of hockey.

First, the ice is broken up into five segments by lines running across the width of the ice. Working from the two ends of the ice towards the middle, there are two secondary red lines that start on the posts of the goals, which are not very important. About forty feet from the net start the two blue lines which are about one foot wide. At center ice there is another red line, the main or primary one. From the blue lines to its end of the ice marks is each team's zone while the red line really just cuts the ice in two.

One common penalty is off sides. The rule states that the puck or the puck carrier of team A must be the first person on team A to enter into the Team B's zone, or

cross over the blue line. The thickness of the line becomes a factor because as long as you have one skate on the line as the puck crosses it, you're considered onside. For this reason, you will often see referees located on the blue line. This rule is also why the two defensemen play on the blue line, to keep the puck from crossing over the blue line thus making everyone clear the zone before the puck can go back in. If the puck is on the blue line, it is still considered in the zone.

Icing is also another common penalty that is sometimes confusing because it has a few exceptions. When there is no man disadvantage (5 on 5), team A cannot shoot the puck into team B's zone until the puck crosses the center red line. For icing to be called, the puck must also pass the end red line in team B's zone. However, if the referee feels that team B can easily play the puck, he can choose to wave off the icing call. This rule can be confused with a two-line pass penalty which is self explanatory (not a rule in high school hockey). An exception to the icing rule is if

there is a man disadvantage on one team. The team with the disadvantage is allowed to shoot the puck the distance of the rink with no penalty.

One term I had to look up was the slot. In the locker room, you often hear from the coach not to let the other team hang out in our slot. This is the area extending from the front of the net out to the blue line. Back-checking is when an offensive player is skating back from the offensive zone to play defense in his own zone. Fore-checking is simply reversed. Cherry picking is when a player is skating around center ice waiting for one of his team mates to pass him the puck to create a breakaway while the puck is in his defensive zone.

Some more obscure or subjective penalties are associated with stick-handling and hitting. Slashing and hooking are when you slash or hook a player with your stick. It really depends on the strictness of the referee with how much you can get away with. Sometimes you will see a back-checking player place the curve of his stick

around the gut of a fore-checking player to try and propel himself forward and pull the other player back. Technically, this is illegal, but it won't be called unless the fore-checker falls down. Nathan Dodney has made the act of falling down an art. Cross checking is when you check using your arms while holding your stick and no part of your stick is touching the ice. This is also a very lenient penalty. Roughing is one of the most obscure penalties because it varies from referee. Cross checking and roughing are the two penalties the refs will slap on you if you hit someone as Aaron Davis did to Lengard in the Father Ryan game where it was perfectly legal, but it didn't look like it was.

Of course there are several other rules and terms in hockey as there would be in any other sport. But the MBA community, for the most part, has just been recently introduced to this wonderful sport. Now you will be freed of your ignorance and can enjoy hockey as it is intended to be.

The Lowdown on Deli-Sandwiches

By Chris Gioia

After writing an article covering pizza in Nashville, I decided to do a follow-up article on deli sandwiches. Cotton Clark, Jesse Wright, and I got together once again and bought four different sandwiches to see which sub was the best. I decided we would try Bellacino's, Blimpies, Jersey Mike's, and Subway's sandwiches. We called and ordered the sandwiches ahead so we could pick them up after playing our rigorous churchball games on a Saturday afternoon. We ordered one club sandwich from each restaurant, and divided it up among the three of us. Before eating the sandwiches, we decided to see what meats come in each restaurant's version of the club sandwich. We also wanted to see the actual length and toppings selection of each restaurant.

Bellacino's "grinder" comes with turkey and ham, whereas Subway has roast beef, ham, and turkey. Jersey Mike's comes with bacon, ham, and turkey, and Blimpies

has ham and turkey. Each of them of course comes with cheese and various toppings to add such as mayonnaise, lettuce, etc. Jersey Mike's, Subway, and Blimpies are nice to visit in person, because generally they are fast and you can see what the person is doing to your sandwich. At Bellacino's they make it in the back, and you must believe what they say is going into your sandwich, so it's more of a leap of faith. Bellacino's also had a rather long wait, which is somewhat annoying if you are desperately in need of food.

The most trustworthy, however, it seems to me is Jersey Mike's. They actually slice the meat in front of you, and they place all the meat out to be seen in a glass refrigerator. Seeing the meat allows you to know it's fresh and not kept in an unsafe place. Unlike Jersey Mike's, Blimpie and Subway have pre-sliced meat, making it seem as if they do not want to show the

customers what part of the animal their meat comes from. Subway's taste, however, was much better than we expected, and it surprised us how good it was. This pre-sliced meat also gives Subway's and Blimpies' sandwiches a somewhat packaged taste, and this is very noticeable when compared to Bellacino's and Jersey Mike's fresher sandwiches. Jersey Mike's and Bellacino's also both have fresher bread. Another important factor of the sub is its appearance. Although this should not matter, we all are judgmental, especially when it comes to our food. The Blimpies sandwich was much less presentable than the other three, giving it a lower rank right from the start. The bread was pinched and crumpled, and looking as if it were a week old. Blimpies had a wait, which also ranked it lower, but the wait was not as long as the wait at Bellacino's. All of us agreed that Subway

and Bellacino's needed bacon to come with the club, instead of having to order it separately, because this additional taste would improve these sandwiches. We thought that bacon on Blimpies' sandwich would not improve it, but actually might make it taste stranger.

Overall Bellacino's was first, Jersey Mike's second, Subway third, and Blimpies fourth. All of these places are good, but Bellacino's did taste the best, having its sandwich, using quality meat, and providing a good quantity of meat placed Bellacino's at the top of our taste test.

Rank/Name	Price	Length	Toppings
1. Bellacino's	\$4.69	8 inches	Fair
2. Jersey Mike's	\$4.95	7 inches	Good
3. Subway	\$4.03	6 inches	Good
4. Blimpies	\$3.92	6.5 inches	Good

A Successful Blending of Talents - Audioslave

By Matt Conrad

Audioslave's first single "Cochise" opens with the thump of war drums and rattling of a guitar character Cochise had been an Apache war chief in the late 19th century leading a band of guerrillas in the Southwest, much like Geronimo. Following a crescendo of the guitar's screeching, guitarist Tom Morello and bassist Tim Commerford, both of the former *Rage Against the Machine*, launch into a characteristic, blood-pumping riff. The torrential progression is quite reminiscent of the opening song of *Superman Returns*, "Let Me Drown" by Soundgarden, the new lead singer Chris Cornell's previous group. Cornell lets his distinctive scream fly in on the track. The song builds at the bridge and for a few more moments leading into the final chorus, much like one memorable moment of *RATM*'s "Guerrilla Radio," when the sound collapses and the lone guitar rings out a few measures of the song's main riff.

In the last year, *Rage Against the Machine* disbanded based upon front man Zach de la Rocha's contempt for drummer Brad Wilk's wild behavior at the MTV Music Awards, where Wilk drunkenly climbed up on top of the set and drew attention to himself during the show. Since then, de la Rocha has been producing his own eagerly-awaited album, on which he has collaborated with world-famous hip hop DJ's. The same Rick Rubin, who worked with them during the *RATM* days has produced Audioslave's album. However, Cornell's continued use of his own manager and his last-minute

refusal to tour with Ozzyfest has the band somewhat divided. Instead, he decided he needed to spend some time with his infant

to do so with Audioslave. However, he has aided his bandmates in writing a number of bridges and intermittent riffs when others were stumped. In addition, there were some

obvious in "Set It Off," "Explosive," the aforementioned "Cochise," and "Gasoline," which evokes the feeling of *RATM*'s "Bombtrack" in its tone and lyrics. The album contains numerous quieter songs, including "What You Are," "Shadow of the Sun," "Getaway Car," and "The Last Remaining Light," many of which range from the airy, eerie fingering of Morello and solid backdrop of Commerford's bass to a distorted array of cymbals, waiting, and sliding up and down instruments' neck. Highlights of the album include the distinctive, futuristic solo of Tom Morello, peevishly played using only a guitar and traditional distortion pedals. The exceptional track "Like a Stone" remains relatively restrained and has a semblance to recent music from *Red Hot Chili Peppers* with its ballad arrangement and clear, ringing guitar. "Show Me How to Live" covers the other edge of the musical spectrum and has a much more energetic guitar and bass. "Bring 'Em Back Alive" lives up the end of the album with its early swell in sound and its crushing bass hook, which moves into a riff very similar to "Wake Up."

The combination of *Rage Against the Machine*'s inventive and unique instrumental parts along with Chris Cornell's melodic tones and personal lyrics has created a wonderful blend of styles. Though the album isn't quite measure up to *RATM*'s subtitled album or *Evil Empire* for the experienced listener, the album adds to the many brilliant works that have come from these artists.



Audioslave's self-titled debut album gets a thumbs-up from *Chalmers* spin on music.

songs. The band is now scheduled to perform at best a sparse number of tours.

The new album consists of many aspects of both of the members' former bands. Although Cornell has had the habit of playing guitar while singing, he declined

initial conflicts in the creation of the songs because the old *RATM* members had to work with the melodies of Cornell's vocals, never an issue with the rapping of de la Rocha. Cornell has refused to write political lyrics, though many inflammatory sentiments are

The Two Towers, at last

By Max Douglas

Having read the first two of three books in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy this winter and having seen the first movie four

times now, I would consider myself an expert in its lore. *Fellowship of the Ring* was nominated for thirteen Academy awards including best picture and director in 2001, winning four. These three major movies, directed by Peter Jackson,

were all filmed simultaneously in New Zealand, arguably the riskiest stunt in motion-picture history.

The Two Towers, the second of three movies, comes out December 18. On November 24, *Time* magazine writes, "Viewers, beware: *The Two Towers*, the

dazzling second installment of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, picks up exactly where the first one left off. No Star Wars-style

scroll to bring you up to speed, no quick compilation of scenes from the first film, no opening Cate Blanchett narration? Nothing. It begins *in medias res*, as though you had just stepped out for a few seconds to get more popcorn."

The all-star cast begins with Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee and Ian McKellen as Gandalf the Grey.

Sean Astin has starred in other movies including *The Graces*, *Rudy*, and *War of the Roses* while Ian McKellen has won over forty international acting awards including a Screen Actors Guild Award for best supporting actor in *Fellowship of the Ring*. He was nominated for an Oscar in that same role.



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An Interview with Frodo Baggins

By Max Douglas

I happened to be lucky enough to have an interview with a hobbit from the Shire, Frodo Baggins, main character in the three movies who is also known as the Ring Bearer. Here is what he had to say:

Q1. How was filming in New Zealand?

A1. I want to make it VERY CLEAR that I am writing from my perspective as Ray Walsh, not as Frodo, so I can't answer this question about filming in New Zealand.

Q2. How did you first come across the Ring, Frodo?

A2. First of all, Frodo did not find the Ring; the Ring found its way to him. Carrying around such a great burden wouldn't be on the top of my "things to do before the end of the Third Age" list, either. I don't blame him for trying to rid himself of the responsibility of the fate of the world, but so far nothing has worked out. Gandalf wouldn't have anything to do with it and Galadriel was just plain freaky.

Q3. Were you happy when Boromir died?

A3. Boromir was a good but incredibly misunderstood guy. It's not fair that he, his brother Faramir, his father, and his people have had to defend themselves and the rest of Middle-Earth against Mordor while the Dwarves continued mining the mountains for treasure and the Elves faded into the

West as their strength dwindled. I think we all have the most to learn about ourselves from Boromir because he was so eager trying to

mess with fate that he wasn't able to see that he had betrayed his cause until it was too late. Well, for that reason, plus, he was a mortal Man, the

similarities when being compared to Dwarves, Elves, and Orcs are pretty apparent. [I'm guessing that's a yes-just answer the questions, Ray.]

Q4. What do you think of Elijah Wood and what would you do if he were voted sexiest man alive?

A4. I've never had too much beef with Elijah Wood, except for the fact that his looks (and acting ability, I guess) get him the

starring role in *The Lord of the Rings* movie, and my looks only get me the "hey, it's anyone ever told you that you look like that guy from

see how he likes it, just to make his life a bit miserable and keep him humble.

Q5. What would you do if you found yourself captured by Orcs in a muddy dark tunnel deep in Mordor having been stung by a big spider which had knocked you out?

A5. I would cut a deal with Sauron and hook him up with some of the best "hitting's left" (Gandalf's favorite) in the Shire if he would quit trying to take over the world - a very fair trade!

Q6. [Ray has some other things to say.]

A6. If there were one thing I'd like to do on Frodo's behalf, it would be to give Pippin a swift kick to the junk for being such a screw-up. In case no one noticed, he was the one that told the shady dudes at the Peacetime Pony that Frodo was there, he was the one that caused Frodo to be stabbed by the Ringwraith's mortal blade, he woke up all the Orcs and Goblins in the depths of Mordor and got Gandalf killed (or so they thought) by the Balin, and he was the one that tried to stop Frodo from leaving and instead got Merry and himself captured by the Uruk-hai for the rest of the surviving fellowship to come rescue them when instead they could have been helping out the failing strength of the men at Helm's Deep.



"I've never had too much beef with Elijah Wood, except for the fact that his looks get him the starring role..."

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Lameness

The *Chrisanthrope* casts aspersions faster than this prepubescent warlock casts spells.

By Christopher Schuller

Bell Ringer Rating: -3 (yes, "negative" does) of 5 stars

Much to the delight of semi-literate grade school types across the globe, the Harry Potter franchise finds its way onto the not-so-silver screen this fall with the second movie installment, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, which sources tell the *Bell Ringer* is based on a so-called "book" by the same name.

Dragged by the Forces of Evil to the Complex this Thanksgiving Day, the *Bell Ringer*'s one-man movie team was surprised at the movie which unfolded before its eyes. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is not by any accounts a children's movie; sequences involving everything from giant spiders to vomiting slugs to remarkably gory giant-slug scenes are sure to terrify the kiddies and disgust the older set. Even the steel nerves of this icy German moviegoer were rattled a bit at certain points; to director Chris Columbus' credit, the target audience of this questionable PG flick is not spared the vivid imagery necessary for an effective-winded film.

For every action, however, Newton tells us that there is a reaction which is equal and opposite in direction. You've laughed, you've screamed... prepare to puke. *Chamber of Secrets* is a monument to silly, binary child emotions, tired plot twists, and serious, serious formula.

Schuller: Which Harry Potter movie am I describing? *Harry Potter* has only home life. *Harry Potter* gets reacted

(out the window) by magical things from Hogwarts. *Harry Potter* gets to School. *Harry* plays Quidditch. *Trouble at School*. *Harry* must break school rules to find out facts. *Harry* further violates school rules,



The *Chrisanthrope* path no punches for sweet little Potter

breaks into bottom of basement with winy girlfriend and the hidden-star-at-Ireland of a best friend. *Harry*'s sidekicks get picked off. *Harry* is left to fight evil in basement of school. *Harry* saves universe; all is forgiven.

You: I can't tell, Schuller (whimper whimper)...

Schuller: Why? Because they're all the same!!!!

Chamber of Secrets positively ranks as one of the lamest movies in the history of man. The dialogue is idiotic, the acting cardboard (Richard Harris was literally dead by the conclusion of shooting), and the plot as suffocatingly hackneyed as *The Sound of Music* meets *It's A Wonderful Life*. Tons in the most simplified, black-and-white concepts of good and evil (basically, lighting effects versus big bad violin music) and you'll realize why for every sharply-drawn breath or leap out of my seat, I must have groaned a hundred thousand times. *Sorcerer's Stone* without points for ripeness... that *Lord of the Rings*... call it what you like, this movie is more completely canned than the Second Harvest Food Bank. I'm not looking forward to yet another tired reincarnation of some twice-recycled, morose novel at a movie theater near you. If we're lucky, every movie ever from here on out will end with a crocodile-teary-eyed Daniel Radcliffe looking up at the big fat groundkeeper (another slam at Ireland, which is encouraged in the UK) and cooing, "It just wouldn't be Hogwarts without you, Hagrid."

Oh, hark. Take me to the real movie: I'm going down the hall to *The Two Towers*.

Slaughterhouse Five... "So it goes" ...very enjoyable

By Jay Howell

Bring us back in time. Tralfamadorians abducting humans to the far reaches of space. Prisoners of war in Nazi Germany. These are a few of the things you missed if you didn't catch the MHA production of *Slaughterhouse Five*, the play adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's classic novel.

Confused? You should be. The concepts of the play are not meant to be understood easily, but the cast and crew presented the complicated structure of the play masterfully. Directed by Dr. Fuller, the play traces the life of Billy Pilgrim, a distraught veteran of World War II. The progression of the play, like the book, does not follow Billy's life sequentially, but in bits and pieces of his existence, from birth to death. One moment, Billy as a child, played by Bennett Davidson, is thrown into a pool to learn to swim. The next, old Billy (Rob Delaney) predicts his own death. The next, young Billy (Bailey Fish) is captured by Nazi soldiers.

In nearly every scene is the narrator, the liaison between the audience and the chaos on stage. Convincingly presented by Chris Schuller, the narrator helped the audience comb through the rapid-fire progression from scene to scene. Although at first the narrator seemed aloof to the insanity occurring on stage, he is eventually sucked into the madness himself in a powerfully haunting final scene, bringing the audience with him.

The three Billy Pilgrims brought intense emotion to the entire production. Bennett Davidson showed the innocence of youth and the seeds of the inner conflicts that Billy would have to face. Bailey Fish presented young Billy with delicate force as he copes with the mind-boggling power of war. Rob Delaney's remarkable performance as old Billy disturbingly presented the effects of war on the human psyche and evoked the inevitable result of war.

With exceptional performances by Chris Hancock, Wilson Goren, Mary Liza Lentz, Timothy Vaughn, Sarah Luton, Josh Morfey, and Ben Newman, every scene was forceful and provoking. The impressive accents of both the German and British soldiers as well as the voice effects of the Tralfamadorians drew the audience even further into the drama.

The production of *Slaughterhouse Five* challenged the views of war as a chivalric method of showing power. The cast and crew expertly presented war as an unjust toll upon the populations of every nation, leading only to confusion and death. So it goes.



Junior Class Poinsettia Sale

By Mr. Anderson Gauthier

This year, the Junior Class studied last year's record sales of poinsettias by selling 506 plants. The total last year was 642. Profits from the sales of these traditional plants are applied to the cost of the Junior-Senior Prom.

The Junior Class generates the advertising and the order form; the office staff, led by Mrs. Gaye, mails out the forms; the Junior Class delivers the poinsettias. By far, however, the most involved person and the person who truly organizes the entire process is Mrs. Morrissey. The Junior Class sincerely appreciates her critical role in the success of this enterprise.

This fund-raiser was begun about ten years ago. In 1992, by the class advisers at that time, Mr. Wornack and Dr. Springer. The first few years saw sales of the plants of around 300 to 400. Then in 1999, sales jumped to 516, to 533 in 2000, and to 642 last year. The remarkable rise in sales this year may be attributed to quite a few very large orders by friends of the school who will use them to adorn their offices or to give as gifts to friends and business associates.

For the past five years the plants have been delivered by the growers on Friday afternoon and carried by the juniors

into Friar Hall for sorting and arrangement. Some are picked up from there by the buyer on Friday; the rest are delivered on Saturday morning to the customers.

Chairman of the poinsettia delivery effort this year are Tyler Augusty, Daniel Rosenblatt, and Chandler Tygard. Ben Pote, president of the Junior Class, expresses his thanks on behalf of the class to all those who purchased a plant, and he hopes they enjoy them during the winter holiday season.

A few interesting details about the Poinsettia:

The plant was named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, having been appointed by President Andrew Jackson in the 1820's. Mr. Poinsett was an amateur botanist, and during his stay in Mexico he wandered the countryside looking for plants. In 1828, he found a beautiful shrub with large red flowers growing next to a road. He took cuttings from the plant and brought them back to his greenhouse in South Carolina.

Mr. Poinsett's name was given to the plant by noted historian and horticulturist William Prescott, who had

written a book called the *Conquest of Mexico*, in which he detailed Mr. Poinsett's discovery of the plant.

In the early 1900's, the Ecke family of southern California grew poinsettias outdoors for use as landscape plants and as a cut flower. Eventually the family grew poinsettias in greenhouses, and today the Ecke Ranch is recognized as the leading producer of poinsettias in the United States, growing 80 percent of the wholesale market.

In nature, the poinsettias are a perennial flowering shrub which can grow to ten feet tall, and are native to Mexico.

A fresh poinsettia is one on which little or no yellow pollen is showing on the flower clusters in the center of the bracts (the colored, modified leaves).

Poinsettias are not poisonous. Although the myth of their noxious nature

has persisted for decades, a study at Ohio State University during the 1950's showed that a 50 pound child who ate 500 of the flowers from the plant might develop only a slight stomach ache. The scientists did not, of course, use a child, but rather mice.

Of all the poinsettias found around the world during this season, almost 90 percent are exported from the United States, with California being the top poinsettia-producing state.

More facts: 74 percent of Americans prefer red poinsettias; 8 percent prefer white and 6 percent the pink. Eighty percent of the people who purchase poinsettias are 40 years old or older. The cost of the plant is determined by the number of blooms. Sixty million pots of the plant were grown in 1997. December 12th is National Poinsettia Day.

Junior Class Gossip

By David Harper and his 5th period study hall crew

Dadney reawakens from the dead
Stealing stuffs
1. Yag to Kitty-Kat - Truck balen

The combined knowledge of Troy, Ted,
and Sam scored a 50 on the previous
Physics test.



"Farewell to the Savages, the best exchange students
to ever walk through the halls of MBA."

2. Dave to Emma - All hell now
3. Matt Smith to Ann Wyatt - Sheldahl
Pony
4. Sam McDonald to Lizzy - a Barista
5. Eaves to Brad - a dozen red roses and a
box of chocolates
Coach Meyer plans on using First
Presbyterian for illegal recruitment of his
Junior class talent.
After leaving MBA basketball, Scott
Pemas is leading his church basketball
team to air balls and bricks with Alex
outscoring him by two points (Pemas 0
points).

Jeff Snyder defeats Coach DeYoung in the
annual rivalry at the Boulevard Bowl.
Morgan is scared to go home for fear of
his mother beating him for scoring only a
1570 on his PSAT.
Schuller is going to Eton... FAREWELL!
Paine told a good story... Oh wait, no he
didn't.
Congratulate Beaver on finally landing a
girlfriend, the one he calls his first true
love, Haley Phipps.
Farewell to the Savages, the best
exchange students to ever walk through
the halls of MBA.

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